FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 13 *18 January 1979*

ARGENTINA

LA PRENSA Calls for Return to State of Rights [12 Jan] B 1
Former Deputy Comments on Political Future B 2
Icebreaker Leaves on Mission to Antarctic B 2

BOLIVIA

COB Plans 18 Jan Nationwide Demonstrations C 1
Absence From Work Authorized C 1
Commercial Air Transport Halted by Strike C 2
Nuncio Will Speak to Pope on Dispute With Chile C 2

BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro Bus Strike Sparks Violence D 1
Some Buses Moving Again D 2

CHILE

Labor Minister Comments on ORIT Boycott Suspension E 1
Briefs: Leftists Arrested; New Department Director E 2

COLOMBIA

Turbay Ayala Ratifies Cooperation Agreement With USSR F 1
Government Calls for Caribbean Foreign Ministers Meeting F 1
Progress Made in Firearms Theft, Kidnap Investigations F 1
[EL ESPECTADOR 12 Jan]
FARC Releases Estate Owner Kidnaped on 25 November F 2
ECOPETROL Reports Sabotage of Pipelines F 2

ECUADOR

Foreign Minister Ayala Lasso Reports to Nation G 1
Council Member Promoted; Poveda Lashes Critics G 3

PERU

Foreign Minister Says He Will Step Down Next Month J 1
Prime Minister Comments on Chilean Espionage Cases J 1
FRG Economic Mission Arrives in Lima J 1

VENEZUELA

Torrijos Continues Tour Program After Brief Illness L 1
Canadian Energy Minister Reports on Results of Visit L 1
FSLN Leader Tomas Borge Here To Thank Perez for Solidarity L 1
Commercial Flights to Havana To Be Resumed in February L 2

PANAMA

Torrijos Announces Joint Military Operation With Venezuela N 1
Assembly President Arrested in Canal Zone; Complains of Abuse N 1
CRITICA Reports Arrest [17 Jan] N 1
Corrales Complains About Treatment N 2
MATUTINO on Unscrupulous Acts, Maneuvers of Representatives [16 Jan] N 2
DENI Chief Inspector Appointed to Canal Defense Committee [CRITICA 16 Jan] N 4
U.S. Response to Foreign Minister Termed 'Insulting' [MATUTINO 16 Jan] N 4
Sandinists Deported by Honduras Arrive Here N 4
Columnist Supports Increase of Parties' Registration Quota [MATUTINO 17 Jan] N 4
Briefs: Teachers Manifesto; New Social Agency; Ambassador to Nicaragua N 5

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Heavy Fighting Between Sandinists, National Guard Reported P 1
Briefs: Aid Agreement Formalized; Coffee Exports P 1

EL SALVADOR

Mexican Embassy Hostages Freed; FAPU Granted Safe-Conducts P 2
Hostages Leave Embassy P 2
FAPU Members Granted Safe-Conducts P 2
Israeli Consul Kidnaped by Unidentified Persons P 2

HONDURAS

Democratization Front Denounces Election Maneuvering P 3

GUATEMALA

Romanian Trade Delegation Meets With Economy Minister [DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA 12 Jan] P 3

NICARAGUA

PLN Preparing Reply to Mediators' Plebiscite Proposal P 4
Radio Commentary Claims FAO Has Disintegrated P 4
National Guard Denies Presence of CONDECA Troops P 5
Sandinist Camp Near Southern Border Dismantled P 6
National Guard Reports on Recent Clashes With Sandinists P 6
Panamanian Brigade Clashes With National Guard Patrol P 7

CUBA

Roca Chairs Electoral Commission Meeting	Q 1
Milian Tours Pinar del Rio Tobacco Areas	Q 1
Almeida Tours Urbano Noris Sugar Mill	Q 1
Marcos Lage Inaugurates New Bulk Sugar Terminal	Q 1
Protocol Signed With USSR Academy of Sciences	Q 2
Khranov Ends Visit to Isle of Youth	Q 2
Malmierca Begins Official Visit to Yugoslavia [cross-reference]	Q 2
Delegation Attends Palestine Council Meeting	Q 3
Ramon Castro, Delegation Tour Iraqi Province	Q 3
Commentary Criticizes U.S., PRC on Kampuchea	Q 3

LA PRENSA CALLS FOR RETURN TO STATE OF RIGHTS

PY161600 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Jan 79 p 9 PY

[By Manfred Schonfeld]

[Summary] The killing of the Argentine woman diplomat Elena Holmberg and the kidnaping of LA SEMANA's director Jorge Alberto Fontevecchia are casting an ominous shadow over this new year in the country.

Let nobody say that we are raising our voice only because another journalist has been added to the somewhat long list of newsmen who have been victims of violence. We are also sorry for those victims who have no professional group behind them to come out in their defense, but we must point out that whenever a journalist is the target of violence the real purpose is not to do away with a particular man but to intimidate the professionals of the press and consequently to silence freedom of expression.

Of course, the diplomatic profession has already been the target of attacks, and an instance of this is the disappearance of Ambassador Hector Hidalgo Sola a year ago. Now violence has a new victim among the ranks of diplomats, with the killing of Elena Holmberg, who was secretary to the Argentine ambassador in Paris. No explanation could be found for this deplorable case, only the information that this woman diplomat, who was well acquainted with the French press, had come to Argentina to assist French journalists from one of the best information magazines not only in France but in Europe in their work. Now the finding of her body is the tragic outcome of all the concern which her disappearance had created--an outcome which cries out for an investigation and clarification of the circumstances surrounding her killing.

However, cases calling for investigation and clarification are many and getting old while nothing is done about them. Such is the case of former LA OPINION director Jacobo Timerman, who is wasting away in poor health under house arrest which keeps him from seeking medical treatment. Other cases are those represented by the "Plaza de Mayo crazy mothers," who were given this name because they keep long vigils in that public plaza in front of the government house--even on New Year's Eve--awaiting some official explanation or action about their loved ones who are missing.

"It is obvious, and it becomes more obvious by the day, that the restitution of the state of rights in the country is a need which must indispensably, imperatively and inexorably be filled.

"The 'dirty war' is something of the past. The guard must not be lowered and a severe control must be maintained so that Argentina will not again fall into the poisonous traps set along the way by international subversive terrorism.

"Nobody can be farther from the truth than those who believe that Argentina can stave off terrorism by blocking or delaying the restitution of the state of rights.

"To the extent that the population cannot trust the authorities, those who want to take 'justice' into their hands, those who want to set up scary secret courts and those who want to command 'death squadrons' will have it their way."

History has recorded the existence of parajudiciary organizations in Calabria, Sicilia, and in medieval Westphalia which took justice into their own hands because there was no judicial or state authority to turn to.

The eventual degeneration of these organizations into purely criminal networks should be an ominous warning signal for those who are afraid of or distrust the state of rights.

FORMER DEPUTY COMMENTS ON POLITICAL FUTURE

PY160151 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1307 GMT 15 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpt] Mar del Plata, 15 Jan (NA)--Former Radical Civic Union [UCR] Deputy Antonio Troccoli emphasized here that "we politicians have come to understand the process which is being conducted by the armed forces," and he remarked that "these rules of the game demand reciprocity" because the government "must understand the republic's political framework."

"Our contribution over the last 3 years has been well known, even in our silence," remarked Troccoli, whose statements were published in the morning EL ATLANTICO. "We have understood that with silence we have given them time to overcome the emergencies."

"No one can intend to create and implement a political system which is not based on consensus and participation," asserted the UCR leader, who believes that if this situation is not understood the politicians will be "overrun by protests, demands and the desire for change which exist and which will not be appropriately channeled."

Troccoli revealed that his party will draw up "drafts to submit to the country" in order to "open the trend toward political, social and economic organization."

"We continue to believe that the proposal cannot come from just one party or force, no matter how important it is," he said, speaking about Argentina's political future. "It must be the common denominator of every sector which has weight or which has something to say or do."

"If our proposals are in agreement with those of the military government, the task of ironing them out will be easy," he remarked. "If, on the contrary, they are absolutely incompatible, we will continue the struggle for our principles, and time and the country will indicate which is the appropriate formula."

ICEBREAKER LEAVES ON MISSION TO ANTARCTIC

PY171736 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Jan 79 PY

[Text] The icebreaker General San Martin, under the command of Capt (Nestor Carvernetti), left the Buenos Aires Port this morning on the second stage of the 1978-79 Antarctic campaign. It will have the mission of taking replacements to the General Belgrano army garrison and supplies to the other bases installed in the Argentine sector of the Antarctic.

COB PLANS 18 JAN NATIONWIDE DEMONSTRATIONS

PY172209 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2035 GMT 17 Jan 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 17 Jan (LATIN)--The Bolivian labor force will mobilize tomorrow in simultaneous demonstrations throughout the country in defense of the democratic process and in repudiation of the presumed fascist advance toward power. The demonstration--called the March of the Anticoupist National Unity [Marcha de la Unidad Nacional Anti-golpista]--was called by the Bolivian Labor Central [COB], the country's top labor organization which has control over 475,000 Bolivian laborers.

COB leaders told LATIN today that the workers will suspend all their activities beginning at noon tomorrow to join the demonstrations which will be held in all cities and in mining and rural sectors. But in answer to a question by this press agency, the labor minister reported at the same time that there is no tolerance for the suspension of labor activities in the country.

Sources of the powerful Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia [FSTMB] reported that the 50,000 mine workers throughout the country will participate in the actions of their respective districts. It will be an orderly expression of union vigor in the country. We will not allow disorder, they added.

The union warnings on normality and order in tomorrow's demonstrations emerged following the message to the nation last night by the president of the government junta, Gen David Padilla, who said the armed forces will not allow any kind of anarchic attitudes, regardless of the origin. The chief of state addressed the nation last night after overcoming a total cabinet crisis a few hours before by appointing three new ministers.

Padilla Arancibia, who presides over a military junta installed in November, fully guaranteed the fulfillment of the democratic process and reiterated the armed forces' commitment to the transfer of power to civilians in August. He also warned that no Bolivian has the right to create obstacles on the road to constitutionalization, indicating that there is no excuse to justify an opposition, no matter how small it is, against the unanimous [word indistinct] of the people. He referred to those who are maneuvering in darkness...those who think only in selfish or group interests, and added energetically: "We can no longer play with domestic peace and with the security of Bolivians. Any threat against the tranquillity of all will find the deserved answer."

Absence From Work Authorized

PY180028 La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 Jan 79 PY

[Text] The government military junta has announced through the Labor Ministry that it has decided to grant workers from all over the country permission for a 5-hour absence from work beginning at 1400 on Thursday so they may attend the civic march organized by the Bolivian Labor Central [COB]. The decision by the Labor Ministry came as a result of a request made by the leaders of the COB, the foremost workers' organization in the country.

The resolution issued by the Labor Ministry at noon today states that the COB, conscious of the present historical moment for the country, has requested authorization from the ministry to hold a civic-union march on Thursday, 18 January, to support the union guarantees granted to the working class and the country's democratization process. Therefore, the ministry has decided to grant the nation's workers permission for a 5-hour absence from work from 1400 to 1900 on Thursday so they can attend the COB's civic-union marches throughout the country.

The ministry's announcement specifies that the hours lost should be made up by the workers in a manner to be agreed upon with their respective employers. The announcement was signed by the labor minister, Col Hermes Fellmann.

COMMERCIAL AIR TRANSPORT HALTED BY STRIKE

PY180108 Paris AFP in Spanish 1919 GMT 17 Jan 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 17 Jan (AFP)--It was reported today that a strike of civilian pilots has left all Bolivian commercial planes inactive. All national and international flights of Lloyd Aereo Boliviano (LAB) were suspended due to the strike, which includes the support of all flight assistants and LAB ground personnel. The pilots are complaining because their U.S. colleagues who work for the state company are paid better salaries for doing the same job. The government is mediating between the strikers and LAB leaders.

NUNCIO WILL SPEAK TO POPE ON DISPUTE WITH CHILE

PY172301 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpt] The Holy See espouses the Bolivian aspirations for a return to the Pacific Ocean (?by obtaining) a free and sovereign outlet through a just and peaceful solution of the century-old (?maritime) problem. This remark was made by the apostolic nuncio when he was interviewed by the newsmen who attended the ceremony [words indistinct] by the diplomatic corps for the new Foreign Ministry under secretary, Jorge Escobari Cusicanqui.

Monsignor Laigueglia said, speaking of the all-important national problem, that the Bolivian episcopate will submit the Bolivian complaints to the holy father at the Puebla meeting so that he can intervene for the prompt solution of the problem surrounding the country's landlocked situation.

RIO DE JANEIRO BUS STRIKE SPARKS VIOLENCE

PY171900 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 17 Jan 79 PY

[Text] The bus strike, which surprised the population of Rio de Janeiro this morning, caused a popular revolt in the form of vandalism waged against buses of the city government-run CBT, street clashes, disruption of commercial activities, etc. The strike deprived the city of the services of 5,829 buses owned by private companies.

With the momentum the strike gained in Rio de Janeiro, buses in neighboring communities were also pulled out of service in view of threats of vandalism from drivers, thus making more dramatic the situation of the whole greater Rio de Janeiro population, who found themselves without means of transportation, since CBT's city-owned buses, taxicabs and minibuses were not enough to cope with the situation.

The strikers are demanding salaries equal to those earned by interstate drivers; i.e., a readjustment on the order of 70 percent. The strike caused 30- to 40-percent absenteeism of workers in general and a standstill of commercial activities, due to the absence of employees and the lack of customers.

The post office of Rio de Janeiro reported that the handling of mail in the greater Rio de Janeiro areas was badly affected and ran newspaper ads explaining delays in deliveries due to the nonattendance of 50 percent of its personnel.

The Education and Culture Ministry postponed university entrance examinations scheduled for tomorrow.

Taxicabs, minibuses and private cars authorized to provide public transportation took advantage of the situation and charged high rates for their services. Normal taxi fares of 30 cruzeiros for runs from the bus terminal to Copacabana were hiked to 500 cruzeiros.

Resolution No 24 adopting measures to control the situation may cause a complete standstill of activities in Rio de Janeiro tomorrow because it has not been very effective so far.

Although the strike was restricted to Rio de Janeiro drivers, in 6 hours the strike had spread to most of the 36,000 drivers of 65 companies which serve the Baixada Fluminense's 6 million population with 2,500 buses. By late afternoon the police reported that 22 buses had been destroyed: 8 in Sao Joao de Meriti, 6 in Caxias, 4 in Nilopolis and 4 in Itaguai. The worst disorder occurred in Duque de Caxias where the shopping center located next to the bus terminal was ransacked, necessitating that the entire area be cordoned off.

The presidential press adviser's office made public a note of the Labor Ministry recalling that public transportation is one of those activities considered essential by law, and that therefore the drivers' strike in Rio de Janeiro is forbidden by Article No 162 of the federal constitution. Labor Minister Arnaldo Prieto recognized the situation created in Rio de Janeiro and warned about coercive measures which can be legally taken to bring it under control. Striking drivers can be suspended or even dismissed from their jobs. The labor minister asked the regional labor delegate of Rio de Janeiro to adopt all necessary measures to avoid further deterioration of the situation, but without interfering with the operation of the drivers' labor organization. The Labor Ministry's note was issued after the labor minister held a meeting with the chiefs of the civilian and the military presidential households and the planning minister.

Although acknowledging the Labor Ministry's note forbidding the bus strike in Rio de Janeiro and recognizing that the law is to be complied with, the legal adviser to the Labor Ministry, Julio Cesar Leite, voiced his opinion that the drivers' claim should be taken into consideration. He urged owners of transport companies to review their accounting books and grant the salary demands.

The president of the Bus Companies Association of Rio de Janeiro said that it will be impossible to end the strike unless the government grants a 61.67 percent increase in bus fares. He blamed the Rio de Janeiro mayor for this situation, adding that the owners have nothing to talk about with their employees, even though they consider their demands reasonable. It is up to the government to allow the necessary increase in bus fares to meet the employees' demands, the president of the association said.

The association president also recalled that the bus owners have filed a request for a 34-percent fare increase in October to cover operational costs. He said that while the Interministerial Price Commission studies the request, the Rio de Janeiro city hall remains with its arms crossed doing nothing, adding that the companies cannot find drivers because nobody is interested in earning a "starvation wage." He finally said that the operation of their companies is fully controlled by the city government through the Public Services and Work Secretariat, as is that of all other public services, although it cares little about their situation.

Finance Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen discarded the possibility that the Interministerial Price Commission would authorize an increase of more than 27 percent in bus fares in Rio de Janeiro in order to meet the strikers' demands. Simonsen said that the readjustment of salaries by transfering it onto prices, particularly in sectors affecting the popular pocket, is a kind of unimaginative legerdemain. The minister said that the bus fare increase requested by the Rio de Janeiro bus owners attacks the economy of the people and goes against norms of the Interministerial Price Commission.

In turn, sources of the Interministerial Price Commission said that the question of a bus fare increase in Rio de Janeiro will be taken up by the plenum of member ministers of that commission next week, adding that should the increase be authorized, it will not be higher than 19 percent, and never as high as the 34 percent requested by the bus owners association.

The Rio de Janeiro bus strike was set off by a traffic safety campaign launched in the city. Bus drivers reacted to this campaign by pointing out the poor working conditions to which they were subjected, with many drivers having to work up to 16 hours per day as a way to compensate for the low salaries earned during regular working hours.

Some Buses Moving Again

PY172235 Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 17 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpt] The bus driver strike in Rio de Janeiro is slowly ending, and some buses began to move this morning, driven by personnel who responded to the appeal of the bus drivers union to end the strike, which was declared illegal by the government.

Several buses linking the south and north ends of the city were back in service, but the situation has not fully returned to normal. Several companies refused to allow their buses to move, claiming lack of security, although buses are running with policemen riding to keep order.

LABOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON ORIT BOYCOTT SUSPENSION

PY171403 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Chilean Labor Minister Jose Pinera has stated that the decision to suspend the boycott against Chile is reportedly because international union organizations are better informed about the Chilean situation.

[Begin Pinera recording] I am quite happy about the decision since it helps us to continue achieving progress toward those objectives the government has established. I believe this is because international union organizations are better informed since they probably tried to obtain as much information as possible before deciding to impose such a drastic measure.

Furthermore, I believe this is also due to the support which all Chileans, and particularly workers and businessmen, gave to the government's labor plan. I believe the support for this program has forced these organizations to reconsider their decision and to indefinitely suspend the boycott against Chile.

From now on the government will continue to enforce the labor plan as it was announced prior to the announcement of the suspension of the boycott. The labor plan is based on the Chilean Government's labor plan. I believe the support for this program has forced these organizations to reconsider their decision, and to indefinitely suspend the boycott against Chile.

From now on the government will continue to enforce the labor plan as it was announced prior to the announcement of the suspension of the boycott. The labor plan is based on the Chilean Government's declaration of principles and it is completely congruent with the institutional plan and the economic plan.

Moreover, the Labor Ministry will continue to enforce a policy of open dialog with all sectors. I want to note at this time that although there have been some union leaders who initially have shown a certain lack of understanding of the labor plan, I called on them to reconsider their position so that we may continue our talks and so that eventually they too may adhere to the massive support for the labor plan, thus improving it to better serve the interests of all those involved with the productive apparatus of the country. [end recording]

Pinera added: I believe that in this manner and with a policy of open dialog with all sectors, we will be able to establish an effective, just and free labor institutionality through the government program.

Hernan Daroch, president of the Industrial Development Association, SOFOFA, stated that he was satisfied with the agreement. He added that once international entities are well informed they act accordingly. The decision which was adopted shows that based on the information they had they decided it was unnecessary to adopt measures against a country which tries to achieve development at all levels.

Manuel Valdez, president of the commerce and production confederation, noted the importance of workers and businessmen confronting such similar situations in a united manner.

[Begin Valdez recording] The news from Washington confirms once again that those maneuvers aimed at stopping the productive apparatus in Chile will not be effective when all Chilean workers and businessmen are united. This is the important lesson to be learned from a situation which could have been very detrimental to some sectors.

The productive sector must maintain a strong tie with the labor sector. [end recording]

He added that businessmen must always be ready with alternate markets and be prepared for any situation. Valdez noted that any struggle to improve the productive process and national labor and social standards is a better experience for the future.

He said that Chile has perhaps overcome in a very brief period one of the worst crises which a country has confronted.

Carlos Ortega, president of the bank federation, said the decision to postpone the boycott is a very positive decision. He said that the Chilean Government was given an opportunity to enforce its labor opening program.

(Julio ?Galves), vice president of the copper workers' confederation, noted that he never believed the boycott would be enforced since there was a political maneuver behind union activities.

Juan Jara, president of the taxi drivers' union, believed that the announcement of the labor plan, which seeks to establish a dialog with workers and a normalization of labor activity, obviously helped. He said that the indefinite postponement of the boycott is a favorable measure, since a boycott would be detrimental to all Chileans.

Guillermo Medina, government adviser and president of the El Teniente Copper Mine workers' confederation, said that he believed the boycott would not be enforced since there is strong evidence regarding Chilean labor activity and labor measures which have been under study since 1975. He added that since in meetings between the president and union leaders the same labor problems were discussed and the president had promised to solve them, the announced boycott against Chile did not have any grounds.

Misael Gallegillos, secretary general of Chilean unions, said that the Inter-American Regional Labor Organization, ORIT, resolution [words indistinct] with which U.S. leaders have attacked the Chilean labor union movement. At first these leaders received information which resulted in a decision to enforce a boycott against Chile but the Chilean Government decision to inform Chilean and international union leaders has once more revealed the truth of the situation.

BRIEFS

LEFTISTS ARRESTED--Three members of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left--MIR--were placed at the disposal of authorities when they were taken to the Third Military Court yesterday. The three MIR members were captured by the security police on 5 January 1979 at Maipu. They have been identified as (Edelmira del Carmen Brosard Herrera), her son (Miguel Angel Miranda Brosard) and (Juan Manuel Galaz). Copies of the MIR newspaper EL REBELDE and other Marxist literature were found in the (Brosards') possession. (Juan Galaz) was in possession of many explosive devices, including aluminum powder, a container of acid, liquid mercury and a homemade handgrenade, as well as 42 kilos of ammunition for 7.65 mm weapons, 103 kilos of ammunition for 7.62 mm weapons, 3 machinegun clips and a microfilm with instructions for making explosives. (Juan Galaz) had lived for 3 months with another MIR member, (Rodrigo Munoz), who was arrested on 21 April 1978. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Jan 79 PY]

NEW DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR--Commander (Daniel Torens) today assumed his duties as chief of the Air Force public relations department. He replaced Col (Eduardo Sepulveda), ret. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 16 Jan 79 PY]

TURBAY AYALA RATIFIES COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH USSR

PA161447 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0503 GMT 16 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 15 Jan (EFE)--Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala today signed the law which ratifies the economic, commercial and scientific cooperation agreement with the USSR. The ceremony was held in San Carlos Palace in the presence of Soviet Ambassador Leonid Romanov and Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas.

President Turbay Ayala told Ambassador Romanov to tell his government "how much we appreciate our relations with USSR." He also said that a joint committee will be in charge of implementing the agreement so that instead of being mere words it will become a reality.

GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR CARIBBEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

PA171856 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The Colombian Government today called for a meeting of Caribbean foreign ministers to discuss the subject of marine and submarine demarcation as part of President Turbay Ayala's plans to solve differences on this topic with Caribbean nations. Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas announced that the meeting will be in Bogota on 25 January.

He also said that diplomatic offices will be opened in Vietnam, Algeria, Iraq and Taiwan. Steps have also been taken to open a Colombian Embassy in Mainland China.

PROGRESS MADE IN FIREARMS THEFT, KIDNAP INVESTIGATIONS

PA161755 Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 12 Jan 79 pp 1, 8-A PA

[Excerpts] The capture of three priests, a couple of university professors and former Superior Military Tribunal Magistrate Tonny Lopez Oyuela were the most relevant developments announced yesterday in connection with the investigation currently underway in the army weapons theft in the northern Canton, the kidnaping and killing of Texas Petroleum Company Manager in Colombia Dr Nicolas Escobar Soto and the subversive M-19 group's activities.

These captures, reported at length yesterday by the newspaper EL VESPERTINO, were made under the Council of Ministers's authorization to the government regarding the implementation of Article No 28 of the national constitution, which establishes that any person against whom serious evidence exists showing his or her implication in activities aimed at subverting public order should be arrested and detained.

According to other sources, aside from the 60 persons mentioned a few days ago in a Defense Ministry communique, about 60 other persons have been arrested in the course of recent operations and turned over to military judges, thus raising the number of detained people to about 130. Naturally, it is safe to assume that many of these will be released if they can explain their situation and if the charges linking them with subversion cannot be proved.

Official sources also indicated that the investigation currently being conducted on the arms theft carried out by the M-19 has had very satisfactory results since several important members of that subversive organization have been identified and may be captured any moment.

Morover, several more raids were carried out yesterday and a number of people whose identities have not been disclosed were also captured.

The investigation into the kidnaping and killing of Texas Petroleum Company Manager Dr Escobar Soto continues in the offices of the trial judge of the second military penal court who, after questioning the various persons captured in the wake of the tragic incidents that occurred in Lucerna neighborhood--where the "people's jail," which served as the place of captivity for the unfortunate businessman for over 7 months, used to operate--now intends to question other individuals turned over to him in recent days.

The investigation is so advanced that it is believed that the first warrants of arrest will be issued either tomorrow, Saturday or Monday.

FARC RELEASES ESTATE OWNER KIDNAPED ON 25 NOVEMBER

PA162003 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1832 GMT 16 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Neiva, Colombia, 16 Jan (EFE)--Military sources announced here today that guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) today, Tuesday, released estate owner Alvaro Santofimio Reyes. The sources added that the rancher, who had been in captivity for 51 days, arrived on his own at his residence in this capital.

Santofimio Reyes, who owns several textile and grocery stores in Neiva, was kidnaped on 25 November. His captors demanded a ransom of $44,000. The sources added that Santofimio Reyes is in ill health. There was no indication as to whether or not his family had paid any ransom.

ECOPETROL REPORTS SABOTAGE OF PIPELINES

PA121926 Paris AFP in Spanish 1406 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 12 Jan (AFP)--The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (ECOPETROL) today reported sabotage of pipelines that transport hydrocarbons throughout the country. In a communique the enterprise, which administers the exploration and exploitation of crude in Colombia, said that unidentified individuals had used a saw to cut a pipeline near the Barrancabermeja refinery in the interior of the country. The damaged pipeline, which was repaired last night, transports butane, propane and natural gas from the Payoa and Provincia fields in northern Colombia to the Barrancabermeja refinery.

The sabotage was discovered 2 days after a gas pipeline exploded near the town of San Rafael, 750 km northwest of Bogota. The explosion killed 8 and seriously injured more than 60 persons.

The explosion of the pipeline between Covenas and Barrancabermeja was apparently caused by a spark from a train coming in contact with a leak. However, the possibility of sabotage was not ruled out.

The two incidents, 48 hours apart, are being investigated, but authorities said today that there have been no arrests.

ECOPETROL workers are currently negotiating a list of demands that management has said would be very difficult to accept because it includes illegal requests and very high wage demands. ECOPETROL stressed that the loss of hydrocarbons as a result of the damages to the gas pipeline will intensify the country's energy crisis.

FOREIGN MINISTER AYALA LASSO REPORTS TO NATION

PA161200 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 0146 GMT 16 Jan 79 PA

[Report to the nation from Quito by Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Jose Ayala Lasso on 15 January 1979--recorded]

[Excerpts] As foreseen in the national constitution and other laws, especially the organic law on the Foreign Service, the Foreign Ministry is in charge of international affairs in accordance with the policy outlined by the supreme executive branch. On the one hand, Ecuador's foreign policy must project the personality and spiritual patrimony of our nation and, on the other, it must follow unalterable principles because the lofty interests that it must preserve are permanent.

In view of this, the national government's foreign policy has sought to safeguard the rights and promote the legitimate interests of Ecuador, and it has been marked by its adherence to the fundamental principles contained in the very roots of Ecuador's tradition. Those principles are, among others, legal equality among states, noninterference, rejection of coercion or the use of force in international relations, disregard for territorial acquisitions obtained through the use of force, support for free determination and thus for the elimination of colonialism under all its guises, respect for a person's fundamental rights and liberties, condemnation of all forms of racial discrimination and support for peaceful means of settling disputes among states.

Ecuador has not been and could not have been indifferent to any international problems, and it has tried as much as possible to offer its ideas and initiatives to solve them. Ecuador has contributed positively to matters such as disarmament, decolonization, the promotion of human rights and the establishment of a new international economic order that will set an example of genuine cooperation among nations. In line with its profound belief in peace, Ecuador has backed at all forums the efforts intended to end the arms race, which does not respond to the states' legitimate need for defense, but constitutes a permanent threat to peace and an obstacle to the economic development of peoples.

According to its interests, Ecuador has tried to expand and revitalize its international relations. To that end, in 1978 the Foreign Ministry accredited ambassadors to New Zealand, Yugoslavia, Denmark, Hungary, Bulgaria, Iran, Finland and Luxembourg, representations which are simultaneously conducted by Ecuadorean mission chiefs in other countries.

In like manner, it reestablished its mission before the Canadian Government and agreed to begin diplomatic relations with Libya, the Bahamas, Barbados and Surinam. Relations with the members of the big continental family have been inspired by the sincere desire for friendship, cooperation and mutual respect.

A cooperative framework of dynamic integration along the border has been developed with Colombia. Bilateral and international cooperation has been promoted to safeguard the equatorial countries' right over the synchronous, geostationary orbit, and the delimitation of the corresponding marine and submarine areas has been concluded.

Along with the work performed within the context of subregional Andean integration with Peru, Ecuador has pursued its activities within the framework of the Ecuadorean-Peruvian standing economic commission in order to analyze and solve the problems that have arisen in the fulfillment of commitments entered into by the parties. The Foreign Ministry, as the loyal interpreter of the unrenounceable right that belongs to the Ecuadorean people as far as the recognition of Amazon sovereignty that pertains to us, has placed foremost importance on the country's major international problem, the territorial issue with Peru.

In this basic matter, Ecuador promoted the strengthening of a friendly and creative dialog that would lead to the solution of that matter in terms of justice and dignity within realistic formulas that will meet the demands of its national honor.

Even though, as I told the press a few days ago, various incidents have negatively affected this dialog--independent of Ecuador's wishes--the Foreign Ministry has not changed its fundamental objective of seeking a just solution to the territorial problem with Peru through the use of peaceful means.

After a prolonged and complex negotiations process, Ecuador signed the Amazon cooperation treaty along with Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Surinam, Venezuela and Guyana in Brasilia on 3 July, 1978. This international instrument seeks to promote the coordination of the respective development plans of the Amazon regions of the member countries in order to promote on the basis of the responsibility of each of them the balanced and harmonious development of the region, along with environmental conservation and the conservation and rational use of Amazon resources.

Ecuador participates in this treaty in its unrenounceable condition as an Amazon country. This instrument has no effect on any disputes on limits or the territorial rights of the parties.

In the context of the country's international economic policy, the Foreign Ministry has been particularly concerned with the maintenance and opening of foreign markets for the sale of the principal Ecuadorean export products, coordinating its work in this field with the Commerce and Industry [as heard] Ministry. Technical cooperation should be the result of international solidarity and interdependence.

Ecuador had an active participation in international organizations and forums in defense of the establishment of a new international economic order, the enforcement of the principles contained in the charter on the states' economic rights and duties and the procurement of just and profitable prices for the developing countries' export products, which will make possible a reduction in the still abysmal differences that separate them from the industrialized countries and which will permit general welfare and the accelerated progress to be achieved by all countries within a climate of peace and justice.

Economic integration is one of the demands of contemporary life. Aware of this fact, Ecuador has provided its most determined support to the Andean Pact, contributing to the solution of some of the most difficult problems that have emerged during the course of the subregional integration process. At the same time, it has noted that it is necessary to energize and invi[illegible]rate LAFTA [Latin American Free Trade Association] and establish more effective ties [illegible] cooperation with it.

Subregional understandings will facilitate the course of LAFTA very much. But it is only through regional agreements that the harmonious progress of all the peoples of our hemisphere will be achieved.

Ecuador has also supported the programs and projects of the LAES [Latin American Economic System], an organization by means of which Latin American economic coordination can most easily be achieved. The LAES action committees are working groups [entidades operativas] which generally avoid the complexities of an international organization and labor pragmatically in specific areas. Ecuador is the headquarters of the action committee on low-income housing.

These are the key issues that, among others, have required the constant attention of the Foreign Ministry.

Under me, the Foreign Ministry has practiced its foreign policy zealously and with devotion, guarding the respect for the personality, sovereignty, dignity and territorial integrity of the country. Its sound intention has been and will be to faithfully translate in the field of its activities the feeling of the Ecuadorean people and their democratic and peace-loving nature. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PROMOTED; POVEDA LASHES CRITICS

PA181200 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano and Gen Guillermo Duran Arcentales, members of the Supreme Council of Government, presided over the ceremony to change insignias and present the staff of command to Lt Gen Luis Leoro Franco, air force general commander and member of the Supreme Council of Government. Bestowed with the rank of lieutenant general of the air force, I receive this distinction as an honor and a responsibility, Lt Gen Luis Leoro Franco, military triumvir, said.

Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano, president of the Supreme Council of Government, said during the ceremony: We are laying the groundwork for genuine democracy, raising the civic expression and political awareness of all citizens, and promoting the reorganization of the state, a political balance and the vigorous and rational use of the national potential in order to modernize the country according to our aspirations, a country in which the strictest and most humane social justice, the most cherished peace and order, the most desirable progress and the loftiest freedom can all fit together. He added:

[Begin recording] Not even the hypocrisy of those who refer to the armed forces in deceptively flattering terms while they seek to destroy it, or the cowardly sarcasm of those who [words indistinct] in the realm of freedom and the broadest goals we seek for the country will in any way harm the dignity of our military institutions, because they are perennial, because their honor is also the honor of the country, because their strength is the strength of the country's internal and external security.

How mistaken are those who, filled with hatred, taking advantage of the pain of others, blinded by their own dark interests, want to attack the plan for legal reorganization and disregard the people's will by discrediting the government and the armed forces, not thinking that they are the spinal chord of the country's security and development. [end recording]

The ceremony to change insignias and deliver the staff of command to Lt Gen Luis Leoro Franco, air force general commander and member of the Supreme Council of Government, took place at the air force base in Quito and was conducted by Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano and Mrs Cecilia Villacis Leoro Franco.

FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS HE WILL STEP DOWN NEXT MONTH

PY161402 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Foreign Minister Jose de la Puente Radbill stated that he will leave his post during the first days of February with the satisfaction of having served Peru. He indicated that he has shared concerns and objectives with the president and the revolutionary junta. He added: In all my acts and all the actions of our Foreign Ministry, I have always acted in coordination and unity with the president and members of the government junta, something which I am happy to stress.

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON CHILEAN ESPIONAGE CASES

PA171708 Paris AFP in Spanish 1525 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 17 Jan (AFP)--Peruvian War Minister Gen Oscar Molina said here today that the cases of Chilean espionage exposed recently by Peru "are not in keeping with the policy of detente."

General Molina, who is also prime minister and army commanding general, left today for Iquitos in the Amazon area to say farewell on the occasion of his coming retirement in February. He referred to the cases of espionage which led to the expulsion of two officers and four members of the Chilean Embassy staff in Peru.

Asked if the explanations on the cases which Gen Herman Brady gave had fully satisfied the Peruvian Government, he said: "He has offered explanations which we have accepted, but I think these incidents are not in keeping with the policy of detente and the agreements we have signed both on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Ayacucho and the tripartite conferences."

The incidents were said to have caused some unhappiness in Peru, and General Brady's arrival at the end of December, when he met with General Molina and Gen Pedro Richter, the president of the joint armed forces command, contributed in great part to the normalizing of relations between the two countries.

Referring to current relations with Chile, General Molina said that "they are normal, as with other countries, but we trust that these incidents will not be repeated; otherwise, we might have some situations to confront."

FRG ECONOMIC MISSION ARRIVES IN LIMA

PA172019 Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1952 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA

[Text] A West German economic mission arrived in Lima yesterday to discuss the renegotiation of Peru's foreign debt with the FRG, which amounts to 40 million marks (about 4 billion soles). The mission will stay in Lima 4 days to iron out agreements reached last November with the Club of Paris.

TORRIJOS CONTINUES TOUR PROGRAM AFTER BRIEF ILLNESS

PA171944 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Gen Omar Torrijos continued with his program of talks today with top Venezuelan officials after exeriencing a slight stomach ailment yesterday. A Panamanian Embassy spokesman said that General Torrijos is in good health. Among his many good points, his health is one of the best.

Yesterday Torrijos talked with President Carlos Andres Perez and had a meeting scheduled with the top Venezuelan military commanders, but apparently he was indisposed after lunch and had to cancel the meeting. Early this morning Torrijos left for the industrial city of Guayana, 700 km from Caracas and the site of one of Venezuela's largest steel complexes.

The true reasons for Torrijos' visit to Venezuela continue to be shrouded in mystery as nothing has been revealed on this officially. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi said that Torrijos had spoken with President Carlos Andres Perez on many problems, including the Nicaraguan situation.

CANADIAN ENERGY MINISTER REPORTS ON RESULTS OF VISIT

PA170132 Paris AFP in Spanish 2255 GMT 16 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 16 Jan (AFP)--Canadian Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie announced here today that Canada has assured for itself the supply of 200,000 barrels of light and medium crude per day from Venezuela. Nevertheless, he added that the South American country will not increase those supplies in the near future.

Gillespie has been in Caracas since Saturday in an effort to get Venezuela to increase the sale of crude to Canada. The Caracas government has ruled out that possibility, arguing that its production is already limited and the amount available for international markets is completely committed. Last week, the Canadian minister visited Mexico for the same purpose.

Besides assuring the current supply from Venezuela, Gillespie also concluded a technological cooperation agreement for the treatment of heavy and extraheavy crudes, of which both countries have large reserves.

All of these subjects were discussed today with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. The two men also discussed the meeting which will be held in London in March between four members of the OPEC (to which Venezuela belongs) and Canada, Norway, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

Venezuela is the main petroleum supplier of the United States and Canada.

FSLN LEADER TOMAS BORGE HERE TO THANK PEREZ FOR SOLIDARITY

PA180008 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2255 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 17 Jan (EFE)--Tomas Borge, one of the top leaders of the Sandinist group which is struggling against Gen Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua, has said here that the conditions for the victory of the Nicaraguan people already exist.

The revolutionary leader, one of the prisoners released as a result of the guerrilla attack on the National Palace in Managua a few months ago, arrived in Caracas last night.

He said he plans to meet with President Carlos Andres Perez to thank him for the solidarity with the Nicaraguan people that Perez has expressed through international organizations.

The Sandinist leader, a short man of few words and peasant bearing, was born in Matagalpa in 1930 and joined the revolutionary cause against the Somoza government in his early youth.

He told newsmen that the attack on Managua's National Palace in September resulted in the strengthening of the guerrilla movements because it brought about the unity of various factions of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN].

Borge stressed that the Sandinist guerrillas are not planning to establish a socialist government but a democratic system with participation of all sectors of national life.

Regarding the Broad Opposition Front, he said that it has been isolated from the people because it is holding a dialog with Somoza and attempting to exclude the Sandinist Front.

"We are preparing for the victory," he said, adding that "we know that we have to travel a difficult path but in the end the victory will be ours and the Nicaraguan people's."

COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TO HAVANA TO BE RESUMED IN FEBRUARY

PA180357 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0148 GMT 18 Jan 79 PA

[By Julio Rivas Pita]

[Excerpts] Caracas, 17 Jan (EFE)--Reliable sources today told EFE that commercial flights between Caracas and Havana will be reestablished in mid-February. The resumption of the Viasa and Cubana de Aviacion flights was apparently arranged during Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi's recent visit to Cuba. There has been no official report on the subject. It is expected that the formal announcement will be made at the last minute by officials of the two countries.

Representatives of Cuban exile circles told EFE that there are persistent rumors about a possible trip to Havana by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, who will end his 5-year term on 12 March. As was expected, it has not been possible to obtain official confirmation of President Perez' trip to Cuba, but Cuban exile spokesmen said it is possible that Foreign Minister Consalvi discussed the subject during his talks with Fidel Castro.

The sources indicated that the Venezuelan Government has already given its approval for the resumption of flights of former Cuban political prisoners and their families. These flights will take place once a month until March when Social Christian Luis Herrera Campins takes office.

Political observers here agreed that Castro's reason for concluding the agreements was to "get rid of" the embarrassing moral burden of the political prisoners and former prisoners and improve his image abroad, particularly in Latin America.

TORRIJOS ANNOUNCES JOINT MILITARY OPERATION WITH VENEZUELA

PA180202 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA

[Text] A UPI dispatch reports that according to Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi, Gen Omar Torrijos, commander in chief of the Panamanian National Guard, and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez held talks in Caracas to discuss the problems which concern Venezuela, Panama and Nicaragua, in particular, and Latin America, in general.

Consalvi reported that General Torrijos arrived unexpectedly in Caracas on Monday on a 3-day visit and met at least twice with the Venezuelan president. The Venezuelan foreign minister noted that Nicaragua was not the only subject discussed. He said that it is a problem that cannot be excluded from the conversation of the representatives of two countries which, together with Costa Rica, have been most interested in finding a peaceful and democratic solution to the Nicaraguan problem. Consalvi, who stated that Torrijos and Perez did not reach any conclusions, said that the Panamanian leader was on a private visit to Venezuela in order to rest.

Meanwhile, the National Guard information office revealed that Panama and Venezuela have agreed to carry out a large joint military operation soon. Approximately 1,000 soldiers from each nation will participate in it, according to Gen Omar Torrijos, commander in chief of the Panamanian National Guard, who arrived in Panama City from Caracas this afternoon. Torrijos said that the initiative for this operation--which will be joint and combined and will almost comprise a division with military units from the two countries--was agreed upon in a meeting with President Carlos Andres Perez and was confirmed later by members of the Venezuelan Army's High Command. Certain members of the Venezuelan High Command will come to Panama next week to coordinate the details of this operation, which will mobilize ground, sea and air forces.

The Panamanian revolutionary leader reported that he held long talks with President Perez during his visit to Caracas. They reviewed the problems of the area, particularly those of Central America. He added that President Perez told him that he was disappointed with the Latin American youth. Torrijos agreed with this because he said that only Panamanian volunteers have taken up arms against the most shameful dynasty in the history of Latin America. The two Latin American leaders also agreed that for the first time in the continent's struggle for liberation there are more weapons than men. What is occurring in Nicaragua is opposite to what has always occurred in Latin America. According to General Torrijos, President Perez will come to Panama on a personal visit as soon as he leaves power in March.

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ARRESTED IN CANAL ZONE; COMPLAINS OF ABUSE

CRITICA Reports Arrest

PA171700 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 17 Jan 79 pp 1-4, 8-A PA

[Text] Victor Corrales Nunez, president of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives and of the National Legislation Council, was arrested last night by Canal Zone police in front of the Canal Zone Post Office.

In provocative disregard of our sovereignty and of top representatives of the revolutionary government, the Canal Zone police arbitrarily arrested the president of our popular power.

This outrage and lack of respect for the representative of the legislative branch in our country is one more act in the series of aggressions being committed by Canal Zone authorities against Panamanian citizens.

As is public knowledge, the honorable corregimiento representatives are accorded immunity by the constitution and cannot be arrested capriciously, as the Zonian police have done.

Corrales was still under arrest in the Canal Zone at the closing of this issue while unsuccessful efforts were being made to obtain his release.

Corrales Complains About Treatment

PA180125 Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA

[Julio Ortega interview with Victor Corrales Nunez, president of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives and the National Legislation Council]

[Excerpts] [Question] Welcome to the show. We would like to say that we regret the incident involving you yesterday in the Canal Zone. We would like to know if you want to comment on the incident in the Canal Zone or if you want to talk about the complaint of some representatives and the community that the legislative council sessions are not being transmitted and the people are not aware of the positions of the legislators as they discuss the direction or course that the national government will take. It is up to you, Mr President.

[Answer] Thank you, Don Julio. Good morning to you all. We are going to discuss the incident since you mentioned it. It is something we do not like to harp on because for several years we have had, for all practical purposes, good relations with the Americans.

The ticket, which the Canal Zone policeman says was crumpled--I have still not seen it--was not bent. When he showed it to his superior--I did not witness this but I saw it through a glass window--he crumpled it. He gestured that I threw it in his face, which is not so because you know how those gringos are. They have no respect for anybody. They would have beaten me or who knows what because they did not beat me. [sentence as heard]

Finally, I did not flaunt my immunity because I know the extent of my rights and I have not flaunted my immunity even in Panama City.

If I had had to spend 2, 3 or 4 days there for parking outside the prescribed area, I would have done so, Julito. However, I am convinced that we have never treated them this way in those (?positions), even in lower positions. [sentence as heard] Simply because they have some authority [words indistinct] we have even seen [words indistinct] and it is an outrage and abuse that I cannot ever accept or admit.

MATUTINO ON UNSCRUPULOUS ACTS, MANEUVERS OF REPRESENTATIVES

PA170233 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 16 Jan 79 p 6-A, 8-A PA

["Conciencia Publica" column by Miguel Angel Moreno-Gongora: "Vices of the Representatives"]

[Text] The obsequious attitude of the president of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives is one of seeking from the president of the republic rays of light that he cannot produce himself. This, on the one hand, and the play of interests, pressures and opportunism seems to have unleashed in the national assembly a race to negotiate with the executive on each one of his bills. There is also a spirit of revenge between the new representatives and the old ones whom the new ones harass and discredit, with or without reason.

These attitudes give evidence of the existence among the representatives of a political attitude which is in no way different from that of the former deputies and which seems to be worse in regard to vices, ambitions and contradictions.

No one will deny that the old system of deputies elected by popular vote by the former political parties, a system which the new politicians created by the 11 October 1968 coup seem to fear, created all sorts of pressures and maneuvers to obtain political and personal benefits. However, it is inadmissible that the same thing will happen with the corregimiento representatives because these same representatives claim that these vices belong to the past and will never happen again. Yet we see the same vices, pressures and maneuvers repeated, enlarged and improved.

The play of pressures practiced by the legislators is more dangerous at this time than in the past when the deputies had to answer to party directorates and the opinion of the voters influenced by an information media always ready to criticize parliamentary activities. The present corregimiento representatives are not under the control of political parties nor the influence of a party directorate or leadership. The representatives are their own political party. Under these circumstances they can act freely without political or popular control. The only instrument which can be used against them is the revocation of their mandate, a legal measure that is apparently difficult to apply.

All these facts known to the people through the information media are proving that we were right when we came out against the existing constitutional formula to elect the people's representatives to the legislative body. They are also proving the validity of the general protest existing in the country against this electoral system.

I am sure that right now the ministers, heads of autonomous institutions, mayors, governors and the president of the republic himself must be feeling the unacceptable pressures and the irresponsible maneuvers used by the corregimiento representatives to obtain political and economic benefits regardless of the costs.

These pressures, which as we said also existed among the former deputies, are now out of control and more threatening in a manner which formerly did not exist. The corregimiento representatives act without fear of either God or law, as the people say.

It should be surprising that these corregimiento representatives, who have in some cases been entrusted with the power of directing and manipulating the organization of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], may find in this power another means of pressuring the executive into yielding to their demands. The representatives may pose all sorts of obstacles or employ indifference and slowdowns when their demands and aspirations have not been adequately met.

Perhaps if we go into the matter in greater depth we could discover the reason the government party lacks popular support in many parts of the country. If we delve still further we may even discover the reasons for the confrontations between the PRD and the Peoples Broad Front Party and see that the main problem is caused by the unscrupulous actions and maneuvers used by these corregimiento representatives to create this situation and justify their exaggerated and irrational demands.

DENI CHIEF INSPECTOR APPOINTED TO CANAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE

PA161633 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 16 Jan 79 pp 8, 13 PA

[By Jorge Mombeliard]

[Excerpts] Domitilo Cordova, chief inspector of the homicide section of the National Department of Investigation (DENI), was promoted yesterday when the National Guard High Command appointed him to the police section of the Panama Canal Defense and Security Committee. His assistant, Leslie Loaiza, was promoted to chief of the division.

It was learned that Domitilo Cordova will work full time in the police section of the Panama Canal Defense and Security Committee.

U.S. RESPONSE TO FOREIGN MINISTER TERMED 'INSULTING'

PA162019 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 16 Jan 79 p 6-A PA

[From the "Forum del Pueblo" column: "The Big Stick is Back"]

[Text] The foreign minister has already received the Americans' response on whether or not Panamanians working in the zone can advise Panama. According to the comments circulating in circles close to the ministry, the response is both ambiguous and insulting. It might be a good idea to publish it in order to dispel any doubts. The minister has the last word.

SANDINISTS DEPORTED BY HONDURAS ARRIVE HERE

PA170418 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0207 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Panama City, 16 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--A total of 47 members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] arrived in Panama City from Honduras today. The Sandinists were deported by the Honduran Government. They had participated in guerrilla actions against the Nicaraguan Army and then fled into Honduran territory.

The principal spokesmen of the group said when they were interviewed that they are fighting against Somoza's government because they consider it a dictatorship. They denied being communists and pointed out that they seek or desire a democratic government for their country, a government elected by the people, but never Somozism without Somoza. They said that they will all return as soon as possible to continue the struggle against Somoza.

COLUMNIST SUPPORTS INCREASE OF PARTIES' REGISTRATION QUOTA

PA171724 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 Jan 79 p 6-A PA

["Conciencia Publica" column by Miguel Angel Moreno-Gongora: "Part One of article "The Quota of 30,000"]

[Excerpts] The Revolutionary Action Movement (MAR) organized and coordinated the guerrilla activities carried out in Tute, the invasion of Nombre de Dios by combined Panamanian and Cuban forces, the landing in Santa Clara, the rebel movements of Salud in Colon, Sajalices in Campana and La Chorrera, as well as the revolutionary activities that took place in the city of Panama in April and May 1959. That is why all of those who died or were imprisoned or exiled were members of MAR.

As MAR's highest-ranking leader in Panama City at the beginning of the revolutionary activities mentioned above and as coordinator of urban action, I had to sign the manifesto that MAR released in the second week of April 1959. In it we not only confirmed and endorsed the Tute uprising, but also recognized the other movements created as means of protest and joint action by idealistic youths and a group of politicians who felt that it was necessary to replace the current administration through the use of force. The document also included a number of political statements which, among other things, analyzed the organization and functioning of political parties.

In the days we are discussing, there was a strong popular demand for a reduction of the number of supporters needed to form a political party because it was felt that the number required at the time was excessive, thus preventing the formation of political parties of a truly popular, democratic and revolutionary nature. In those days it was believed that the number required reduced the chances of popular groups with nationalist and progressive ideologies forming political parties that would achieve power to direct the nation's destinies through an electoral debate.

Although the material aspect of the revolutionary actions I mentioned failed, there is no doubt that they succeeded in the conceptual and ideological aspects. They created a doctrine of sacrifice among Panamanian youths which has extended until the present and which is made manifest through the expressions and feelings of decorum and dignity that live in the consciences of all those fighting, from the various directions of their political convictions, for a free, sovereign, progressive and democratic Panama in which we should all have the same opportunities to participate, in accordance with our capabilities and without distinctions of race or social condition, to forge the nation's destiny.

The reduction of the electoral quota sometime later led to the birth of political parties whose ideological criteria were rooted in ideals of social justice, sovereignty, freedom and democracy but, as a negative aspect, it also led to the birth of parties which were concerned with the economic and political interests of groups and persons who were not progressive.

After reviewing the experiences of the years that passed by with a political quota that miniaturized the political parties, often turning them into paid tools of powerful economic groups, we must agree that it was necessary to increase the electoral quota and to formulate procedures aimed at preventing the manipulation of parties by privileged elites to the detriment of the interests of the majority of supporters.

BRIEFS

TEACHERS MANIFESTO--The Panamanian Independent Teachers Association has issued a manifesto to the nation announcing that at a 6 January meeting in Santiago, Veraguas Province, the educators agreed to express their discontent with the way the government is handling the payment of the annual bonus for teachers, the Social Security's handling of its funds, low pensions paid to teachers and the government's noncompliance with promises made during the teachers strike last year. [Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Jan 79 PA]

NEW SOCIAL AGENCY--Labor Minister Oyden Ortega announced today that the National Directorate of the Child and the Family, announced by President Royo in his 1 January speech, will replace the present Directorate of Social Welfare. The minister also said that the efforts of the National Professional Training Center will be promoted and that a branch of the center will be established in Colon Province. An office of labor studies will also be established on the Atlantic coast. [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA]

AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA--Author Mario J. de Obaldia was appointed Panamanian ambassador to Nicaragua on 16 January. [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 Jan 79 p 6-A PA]

COSTA RICA

HEAVY FIGHTING BETWEEN SANDINISTS, NATIONAL GUARD REPORTED

PA171943 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] The areas of Cardenas and other places near the border were bombed this morning. According to [area chief of the Costa Rican Civil Guard] Major Campos, the noise of heavy arms fire could be heard in Nicaraguan territory. Unofficial reports indicated that casualties are heavy.

It is difficult to say from a great distance whether the Nicaraguan helicopters or planes are violating our territory, Major Campos said. From what I have seen, I can affirm that this is not the case. Campos added that the noise of a helicopter could be heard and that everybody was packing to leave in case anything happened.

A customs official reported that several inhabitants of Las Brisas and La Libertad, towns near the border with Nicaragua, reported that Nicaraguan helicopters had flown over Costa Rican territory. In addition, there has been talk of bombing but, as we said before, Major Campos denied this report.

In view of the bloody clashes inside Nicaraguan territory, we conducted a telephone inquiry about the situation in several border towns, such as Los Chiles and Upala, and were able to determine that the situation is normal there. The border remains open, an obvious sign that the clashes are not taking place near the border and much less that they originated in Costa Rica, Major Campos said. The Nicaraguans had closed the border for a few minutes.

Meanwhile, according to the latest reports from the Penas Blancas customs post, the intense shooting that took place near the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border between 1030 and 1200 this morning has ended. The border has been reopened to vehicular traffic, and the bus of the Condor line that was en route to our country has been able to cross.

The border area was the scene of great panic today when Sandinist guerrillas staged an attack that was repealled by the Nicaraguan National Guard.

BRIEFS

AID AGREEMENT FORMALIZED--Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier and Dutch Ambassador to Costa Rica Efrain Jonckheer yesterday formalized a program, implemented in January 1977, under which Costa Rica receives technical aid in the areas of agriculture and cattle breeding. The 30-month program, which still has 6 months to go, represents an investment of almost $500,000. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA]

COFFEE EXPORTS--Until 15 January of this year, a total of 42,189 tons of coffee from the 1978-79 coffee harvest has been sold for export. The average price per ton of coffee placed at the railroad station is $2,690. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA]

EL SALVADOR

MEXICAN EMBASSY HOSTAGES FREED; FAPU GRANTED SAFE-CONDUCTS

Hostages Leave Embassy

PA171955 Paris AFP in Spanish 1739 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 17 Jan (AFP)--The 80 hostages held inside the Mexican Embassy in this capital were released today in a bloodless operation. Defying members of the United Popular Action Front (FAPU), the hostages compelled embassy personnel to open the doors of the diplomatic mission, which they left in single file. Among the 80 hostages who left the embassy were embassy officials and employees and others who were there on personal business. They asked for police protection and were taken to a safe place.

FAPU members were still in the embassy, which they seized at 1000 on Tuesday during a surprise operation carried out by mingling with the people. They wanted to hold a news conference, but the police did not allow newsmen to go in.

FAPU Members Granted Safe-Conducts

PA180149 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0123 GMT 18 Jan 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Government has agreed to grant safe-conducts to the 30 persons who occupied the Mexican Embassy in San Salvador and who will soon travel to the Mexican capital as political refugees. The agreement was reached after hard negotiations which began on Tuesday afternoon.

The 30 members of the leftist United Popular Action Front [FAPU] agreed to surrender their weapons, 12 pistols and revolvers and a carbine which they snatched from an embassy guard. The hostages at the embassy were released this afternoon.

The final agreement was reached a few hours before President Carlos Humberto Romero goes to Mexico on an official 3-day visit. The Salvadoran president will leave for Mexico City on the morning of 18 January.

ISRAELI CONSUL KIDNAPED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

PA172318 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2253 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Ernesto Liebes, Israel's consul general to El Salvador, and a woman accompanying him were kidnapped today by a group of armed men. The incident occurred 5 km from downtown San Salvador on the Panamerican Highway. According to witnesses, the consul was driving a Cherokee vehicle when a similar vehicle carrying four men collided with his. After the accident, Liebes got out of his car thinking that it was just a normal collision. The individuals took advantage of that moment to force him at machinegun point to get into their vehicle.

The woman who was with Liebes called out for help and a group of persons quickly gathered at the scene. National police agents arrived 3 minutes later and picked up a shoe left by the woman who was the Liebes. It is not yet known who carried out the kidnaping.

HONDURAS

DEMOCRATIZATION FRONT DENOUNCES ELECTION MANEUVERING

PA172225 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1831 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 17 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The army and the traditional National Party of Honduras [PNH] are subtly plotting an electoral fraud in Honduras aimed at winning the 1980 elections. The charge was made by the Broad Front for the Democratization of the Electoral Process, which was organized Monday by the Honduran Christian Democratic Party [PDCH], the Liberal Party of Honduras [PLH], the university, the Federation of Women's Associations, and a number of teachers organizations, student federations and labor unions.

The Coordinating Committee includes PLH member Enrique Ortez Colindres, university Rector Jorge Arturo Reina, PDCH President Herman Correlas Padilla and Norma Marina Garcia, president of the women's federation.

The country's current political situation was analyzed first and the general consensus was that a fraud is being prepared and that it is necessary for all Hondurans to unite in order to prevent it.

According to the analysis, the Honduran Army is allowing the PNH to obtain all key public administration posts in order to facilitate their rise to the presidency. The military have called elections for a national constituent assembly in April 1980 through a National Electoral Tribunal, which has registered only one new political part and is very slowly conducting a census.

The democratization front was organized because of the opposition of the PNH, the recently registered Innovation and Unity Party, and Virgilio R. Galvez, representative of the Supreme Court of Justice and president of the tribunal, to the PDCH's registration. The group was also organized because of the way in which all of the country's municipalities have been changed and put in the hands of PNH members.

Several dissident political leaders have already warned that violence might erupt in Honduras if the fraud is consummated.

GUATEMALA

ROMANIAN TRADE DELEGATION MEETS WITH ECONOMY MINISTER

PA172314 Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 12 Jan 79 p 3 PA

[Text] During their meeting with Economy Minister Valentin Solorzano in his office at the national palace, the members of the Romanian trade mission visiting Guatemala expressed their interest in maintaining trade with Guatemala. They met with the economy minister after exchanging views with members of the Chamber of Commerce of Guatemala.

Solorzano said that the Romanian delegation paid him a courtesy visit to express Romania's interest in direct trade with Guatemala.

NICARAGUA

PLN PREPARING REPLY TO MEDIATORS' PLEBISCITE PROPOSAL

PA180319 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0225 GMT 18 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 17 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--A delegation from the government of President Somoza will travel to Washington tomorrow to present to the international mediation commission tasked with solving the Nicaraguan political crisis the reply of Nicaragua's government party to the most recent alternative presented by the conciliators sent by the OAS to Nicaragua. The delegation is made up of Guillermo Sevilla Sacasa, Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington, and Luis Pallais Debayle, vice president of the Chamber of Deputies.

The Somoza government delivered notes to the Guatemalan and the Dominican embassies in this country almost at the same time. [sentence as received]

The mediation commission is comprised of diplomats from the United States, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala.

President Somoza, the Cabinet and the Directorate of the Nationalist Liberal Party, that is, the government party, met tonight to draft Nicaragua's reply in final form and address it to the tripartite conciliation commission which is about to present a report to the OAS consultative body.

According to information gathered from sources close to the PLN's top leadership, the Somoza government is willing to accept an international authority to supervise a national authority that will be in charge of controlling, organizing and conducting a plebiscite that will determine if Gen Anastasio Somoza will remain in power. According to earlier reports, the latter has been rejected by the Broad Opposition Front, which represents Nicaragua's moderate opposition that has participated in the mediation process sponsored by the OAS.

RADIO COMMENTARY CLAIMS FAO HAS DISINTEGRATED

PA180259 Managua Estacion X in Spanish 0030 GMT 18 Jan 79 PA

[Unattributed commentary: "Total Dismantling of the Broad Opposition Front"]

[Text] The statements that the leaders of the Broad Opposition Front [FAO] have made public on the occasion of the unexpected return of the international commission of friendly cooperation and conciliation deserve special comment. Those statements clearly show the absolute ideological dispute that exists among the various small groups that continue to be members of the FAO. They also indicate that as a result of mutual recrimination the FAO's alleged unity has been broken and with the [word indistinct] of the Social Christian Party it has disintegrated. It is in the last phase of its existence.

This total disintegration and dismantling of the FAO also produces a complete change in the relationship of the political forces in the country's general panorama because what was a potential contender of the Nationalist Liberal Party [PLN] in the search for a solution to our political problem has lost all the representation which it attributed to itself and which it used to deceive international public opinion. The FAO is now only a phantom, something out of our very recent past which we Nicaraguans only remember as the shrill voices of scandal and irrational propaganda against the republic's constitutional government.

The reasons for the FAO's disintegration are more than obvious. On various occasions we said that apart from the historic and political [word indistinct] of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, the small groups that comprised the FAO were nothing but organizations in name only, mere puppets remotely controlled by the Sandino-communist front through the [word indistinct] that it has in the various groups of Marxist, Castroite and orthodox communist ideology whose only goal is to use any means to reach power and substitute our democratic and representative system with a socialist system.

The Nicaraguan people and the whole world are witnesses to the fact that the FAO was killed by its intransigence and arrogance as well as the ideological diversity of the 22 minigroups that comprised it.

Now, in the face of such an obvious reality, which the PLN and President Somoza Debayle predicted on various occasions, the international commission of friendly cooperation and conciliation is at a momentous crossroads because it has to do (?one of two things). Either recognize the truth that the only party of the masses--dynamic, organized and solidly united and synchronized--is the PLN or [admit] that lacking foresight and prudence, it supported a ghost-like sector of our politics, sharing its views and making a common cause of the position of the opposition front against the constitutional government of the republic and the PLN. By attempting to disregard the mandate of our political constitution, it believed it could humiliate the PLN and force it to submit to its arbitration by virtue of the predominant influence of the U.S. ambassador.

Things continue to be as clear and precise as in the beginning. The political power held by the PLN in the government of the republic has been granted by the great majority of the Nicaraguan people, who are the source of that power. Therefore, only through the will of the people, expressed at the ballotbox in free, just and honest elections held with all the necessary guarantees and safeguards, can the PLN abandon power as in other de jure states and all countries ruled by democratic and republican principles.

NATIONAL GUARD DENIES PRESENCE OF CONDECA TROOPS

PA180136 Managua Estacion X in Spanish 0030 GMT 18 Jan 79 PA

[Nicaraguan National Guard General Headquarters communique No 5, dated 17 January--read by announcer]

[Text] The Legal and Public Relations Office of the Nicaraguan National Guard notifies citizens that it emphatically denies the statements made by the agitation and propaganda bureau of the group of mercenaries, members of the international communist brigade, that troops of member countries of the Central American Defense Council [CONDECA] are in Nicaraguan territory helping Nicaragua fight communist subversion. Those statements are a lie because the Nicaraguan Government has at no time invoked that treaty. The Nicaraguan people are being defended only by national soldiers and not by soldiers from other countries. The National Guard is the only armed force which fights subversion in our country [words indistinct] a professional and nationalist army to stop the communist advance and any invasion of Nicaraguan territory by mercenaries.

[Signed] Col Aquiles Aranda Escobar, chief of the Legal and Public Relations Office of the National Guard

SANDINIST CAMP NEAR SOUTHERN BORDER DISMANTLED

PA171333 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0149 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 16 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--A National Guard spokesman reported today, Tuesday, that the National Guard has dismantled a Sandinist guerrilla camp at a place known as "Cardenas" and has killed eight guerrillas. The spokesman added that the National Guard carried out a large-scale offensive against guerrillas who had set up a camp near Cardenas, a few kilometers from the Costa Rican border.

The source said that eight Sandinists died during the operation, including one who is believed to be Mexican Victor Manuel Tirado Lopez, a legendary combatant and leader of the Sandinist National Liberation Front. The National Guard suffered three casualties, it was reported. The National Guard also seized bazookas and heavy machineguns, as well as other military supplies which the Sandinists abandoned as they fled from the National Guard.

The source said that an official communique on these events will probably be issued shortly.

The Cardenas area continued to be the scene of heavy movements of troops and military equipment Tuesday evening.

NATIONAL GUARD REPORTS ON RECENT CLASHES WITH SANDINISTS

PA172216 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1559 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 17 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The National Guard reported here today that two new clashes took place yesterday in the areas of "Colina 18" and "Los Mojones" on the border with Costa Rica, with a toll of 11 guerrillas dead and 12 wounded.

In the first clash, which took place 3 km south of the town of Cardenas in the border Department of Rivas, forces of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] international brigade were repelled by National Guard platoons. According to the military report, those forces, which guard Nicaragua's southern border, killed 9 and wounded 12 Sandinists, who managed to take refuge in Costa Rican territory. In their fight, the insurgents abandoned a 60-mm mortar, a 3.5 (?mm) rocket, 6 FAL rifles, 1 Garand rifle, 14 60-mm grenades, FAL rifle cartridge clips, ammunition, knapsacks, clothes and other military equipment.

It was unofficially reported that among those who fell in combat at the border were the rebel leaders who identified themselves as "Santiago" and "Pablo" and an unidentified Mexican who, it is speculated, may be the legendary Sandinst commander Victor Manuel Tirado Lopez. The knapsacks found at the site of the battle were marked with the names "Pilin," "Zviogani" and "C.J.R.V." Two other unidentified guerrillas died during the clash at "Los Mojones." The remainder of the Sandinist column was able to enter the territory of the neighboring country, leaving behind an FAL rifle, cartridges for the same weapon and (?cameras).

No casualties were reported by the National Guard patrols, which are continuing their mission of defending the nation's sovereignty, according to the report released by the Office of Legal and Public Relations of the National Guard.

Meanwhile, in Leon Department, in Nicaragua's western region, the military authorities have reported that a total of 20 armed attacks have been conducted in the cities and rural areas by groups of armed youths who cover their faces with red and black scarves and who have been identified as FSLN members.

In this capital, meanwhile, a group of policemen went to the house of labor leader Mariano Mendoza in the "Maximo Jerez" housing development last night. Mendoza was not home so they arrested his son, Rene Mendoza, an engineering student.

Recently, a police orderly assassinated Luis Medrano Flores, secretary general of the Confederation for Unity of Trade Unions (CUS), to which Mendoza belongs. The labor leader said that the labor central will file no charges against the presumed murderer because there is no justice in Nicaragua. "The people will take the law into their own hands," Mendoza said. He added that what is important is not to know the name of the actual killer but of the masterminds of the assassination of the labor leader on 9 January in this city.

The Managua police carried out similar operations at the "14 September" housing development and in the "Rio Sol" district, both east of this city, but the names of those arrested are not known.

Meanwhile, a group of urban guerrillas traveling in a stolen taxi held up the "Shell gas station on 27 May Street in Managua last night and stole approximately 5,000 cordobas ($714).

Police forces also patrolled the area of the Nicaraguan Red Cross buildings, west of Managua, where over 20 hospital workers have been on a hunger strike for over 30 hours to demand the rehiring of more than 2,800 members of the Federation of Health Workers (FETSALUD), the signing of a new collective contract to regulate relations between trade union members and the health institutions and improvements in the medical services to patients of the hospital system. The workers were dismissed in the wake of the abortive strike of last August. The hospital workers expected Managua Archbishop Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo to intercede in their favor with the health authorities as an initial step in the search for a formula to find a reasonable solution to the social problem of the dismissed workers.

PANAMANIAN BRIGADE CLASHES WITH NATIONAL GUARD PATROL

PA171506 Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1230 GMT 17 Jan 79 PA

[From "Radio Periodico Conciencia" program by Milciades A. Ortiz Jr]

[Text] This is a report from the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Nicaragua:

A Somozist military patrol disguised as peasants on horseback a few days ago entered the liberated zone of Nicaragua controlled by the Sandinists but was repelled, leaving behind several casualties. A Panamanian named Salvatierra killed four members of the patrol with a Belgian .30-caliber MAG machinegun. Another Panamanian named Rosas, from Colon, was wounded in the leg but not seriously.

The Somozist patrol, composed of 12 men, tried to take the Sandinist guerrillas by surprise but was repelled thanks to the outstanding participation of the Panamanians in the Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade, led by Dr Hugo Spadafora, in Nicaragua.

ROCA CHAIRS ELECTORAL COMMISSION MEETING

FL180013 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Chaired by People's Government National Assembly President Blas Roca, the National Electoral Commission held its second meeting today to prepare the elections for delegates to municipal assemblies on 8 April. During the session, the participants discussed the approval of election certificates, identifications and the oath of delegates as well as the type of ballot to elect the members of municipal executive committees and delegates to provincial assemblies. Reports on the printing of ballots and the progress made in the installation of equipment needed to guarantee an efficient flow of information on the development of the elections were submitted during the meeting.

MILIAN TOURS PINAR DEL RIO TOBACCO AREAS

FL180026 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Arnaldo Milian Castro, member of the PCC Politburo and Council of State, has toured tobacco areas in San Juan y Martinez and San Luis, Pinar del Rio Province. During conversations with workers at various farms and tobacco houses, Milian said that despite the bad weather we have experienced this year, the tobacco crop has been given good care and is in magnificent condition.

In his chats with members of the National Association of Small Farmers, during which he learned about the accomplishments of livestock-agricultural cooperatives, the PCC Politburo member explained that efforts must be made to continue to work in that direction and enumerated the benefits that can be derived from it.

ALMEIDA TOURS URBANO NORIS SUGAR MILL

FL171941 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 17 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, has toured the Urbano Noris sugar mill and construction sites in Holguin. During his stay at Holguin's huge sugar mill, Almeida chatted with workers and expressed interest on successes achieved since the start of the harvest. To date Urbano Noris has fulfilled its maximum production capability 29 times--26 of them consecutively--and has recently hosted the harvest emulation national checkup meeting. The leader of the revolution also toured the area of social development in Holguin City and the construction site of the Calixto Garcia stadium and the Martires del 26 de Julio agricultural implements factory, which is being built with Bulgaria's assistance.

MARCOS LAGE INAUGURATES NEW BULK SUGAR TERMINAL

FL171221 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The 2 December bulk sugar export maritime terminal, the seventh of its type in this country, was inaugurated yesterday in Ceiba Hueca, Granma Province. Juan Almeida, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, chaired the ceremony with which the modern installation was officially put into operation.

The new bulk sugar export terminal has a loading capacity of 700 tons per hour. In a day's work, it can load a ship with 15,000 tons of sugar.

In making the inauguration speech, Sugar Industry Minister Marcos Lage explained that nearly 400,000 tons will be loaded at this new terminal [presumably during current harvest] using only 186 workers. In this way, a significant saving of more than 300 men, who did this hard work in the sugar mills, will be realized. Lage noted that in the past this type of highly mechanized installation meant unemployment and poverty for thousands of families. He added that in socialism these installations represent savings of efforts and increased efficiency of ground transportation equipment and our ships, which now can take better advantage of their time.

Lage announced that as a result of the experience gained in building these terminals and the high specialization attained in producing their equipment and installations, Cuba is in a position to export complete plants and equipment for them.

PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

FL160034 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jan 79 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee Secretariat member Antonio Perez Herrero has received the delegation of the USSR Academy of Sciences which is visiting our country. Attending the meeting for the Soviet side were Yuriy Ovchinnikov, vice president of the institution in charge of the section of chemical-biological sciences, who heads the delegation, and other members.

Cuba and the USSR Academy of Sciences today signed a protocol on scientific cooperation in various fields of biology and chemistry. The document, which was signed in Havana, grants special importance to the development of conversations in the fields of biophysics, organic chemistry and molecular and genetic biology. The two sides expressed interest in strengthening cooperation between their respective institutions by developing joint research work and interchanging cadres.

KHRANOV ENDS VISIT TO ISLE OF YOUTH

FL171552 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1516 GMT 17 Jan 79 FL

[Text] At the conclusion of his visit to the Isle of Youth special municipality, Necho Khranov, deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Committee for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples, [as heard] declared that the transformation of the Isle of Youth into a stable economic unit with its marvellous weather conditions shows the advantages of the socialist system.

The Bulgarian delegation visited the museum at the [former] Modelo Prison and the Samora Moises Machel and (Mikhail Frunze) rural schools for Mozambican and Namibian students, respectively. It also toured the city of Nueva Gerona, the House of Friendship with Peoples and other places of interest on the Isle of Youth.

Regarding his visit to the schools for the African students, the peace committee official of the fraternal country said the existence of these schools, which are training the future technicians for African countries, demonstrates the proletarian internationalism which the revolutionary Cuban people practice.

MALMIERCA BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

For Belgrade TANJUG coverage of the official visit of Isidoro Malmierca, minister of foreign affairs, to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, see the Yugoslavia section of the 18 January and subsequent issues of the East Europe DAILY REPORT.

DELEGATION ATTENDS PALESTINE COUNCIL MEETING

FL181116 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The Palestine National Council has given an enthusiastic ovation to a message from the Communist Party of Cuba and its first secretary, Fidel Castro, to the maximum legislative organ of the resistance.

Jose R. Alvarez Bravo, chief of the Cuban delegation invited to the meeting, said that our country, despite the geographic distance, has always been close to the Arab peoples and especially the heroic Arab-Palestine people in their struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction. The Cuban delegation participated in the second day of the Palestine National Council meeting that opened Monday in Damascus with the attendance of nearly 300 delegates and many guests as observers.

RAMON CASTRO, DELEGATION TOUR IRAQI PROVINCE

FL171957 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1909 GMT 17 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Ramon Castro, director of the Valle de Picadura livestock breeding project, and the delegation accompanying him were received by the authorities of the Province of al-Anbar, Iraq. A warm welcome was accorded to the delegation by mass organizations, workers, pioneers and people in general. The Cubans visited the installations of a gigantic irrigation project that channels the waters of the Euphrates River where they were extensively briefed on the project. Afterward Ramon Castro and those accompanying him met with a group of Cuban physicians working in Ramadi Province. Castro arrived in Iraq on 10 January in response to an invitation from Iraq's Greater Council of Agriculture.

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES U.S., PRC ON KAMPUCHEA

FL171309 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Jan 79 FL

[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry "Combatants Political Information" program commentary]

[Text] The tendency to lie, confuse, sow discord and promote tension is an everyday habit of North American rulers. It is a fact proven by history.

It is logical that the allies of imperialism follow this dirty behavior, and this is shown by the current Chinese leaders without an effort to conceal it.

As a result of events in Kampuchea, where the revolutionary action of the people did away with the reactionary regime that was oppressing them, Washington and Beijing (Peking) have orchestrated the propagandistic fallacy that Kampuchea was invaded by Vietnam. North American Secretary of State Cyrus Vance went as far as publicly condemning an alleged invasion of Kampuchea, saying that it threatened the stability of Indochina. His predecessor, Henry Kissinger, the same one who as secretary of state was aware of the U.S. genocide in Indochina, also spoke of the invented Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea.

The entire world is aware of the imperialist tricks. The ones who for more than 20 years violated the sovereignty, invaded, bombed, devastated entire zones, massacred thousands of people and maintained a criminal regime in South Vietnam, now promote judgments against the Vietnamese because of the Kampuchean people's victory.

The United States--which does not have an iota of morality on matters of respect for sovereignty and integrity of countries--has raised, along with the Chinese mandarins, the argument that Vietnam invaded the neighboring country and that it has violated the international principles of respect for borders. Its Beijing allies have expressed themselves in similar terms, and these are the same ones who for months and every day provoke, violate the border and attack Vietnam. They are the same ones who armed and encouraged the pro-Maoist regime of Pol Pot and Ieng Sary to attack Vietnam.

The fall of the clique as a result of the Kampuchean people's uprising has irritated the imperialists and their Beijing allies which see their preconceived expansion plans in Southeast Asia obstructed.

Washington and Beijing have joined their voices in the same song and are trying to confuse world public opinion just as they did during the aggression against Angola by South Africa, Zaire and mercenaries recruited by the CIA, and just as they did during the Somali aggression against Ethiopia.

The United States and China are trying to use the events in Kampuchea to undermine the universal prestige of socialist Vietnam and create a dangerous atmosphere by tension against that nation.

World public opinion--which welcomes the revolutionary victory in Kampuchea and considers it an important step toward the favorable prospects for strengthening peace in Indochina--cannot be deceived by such reactionary actions. The progressive world knows that the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique fell as a result of the uprising and revolutionary struggle of the Kampuchean people, and that the clique fell because it did not have and could not have social roots or the support of the masses in that country. The barbaric actions of the regime generated the strong resistance of the people, a heroic people who love the freedom and independence that were taken away from them, after a long anti-imperialist struggle, when the pro-Beijing Phnom Penh regime came to power.

Imperialism and Maoism are stirring up tension in the area for the purpose of an aggression against Vietnam. They are seeking pretexts to justify their reactionary policy. That is why they are shouting about an alleged Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea.